

file - 55RC

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Assistant Directors, CIA  
FROM : Director of Training  
SUBJECT : Summary of Discussion on the Social Science Research Council Project for Training Area Specialists

1. Under the Chairmanship of the Bureau of the Budget the following listed agencies met with representatives of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies to consider the subject proposal:

- a. Department of State
- b. Department of Defense
- c. Department of the Army
- d. Department of the Navy
- e. Department of the Air Force
- f. Federal Security Agency
- g. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- h. Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA)
- i. Library of Congress
- j. National Security Resources Board (NSRB)

2. Summary of discussion by proposers (Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies):

- a. The Major objective of the proposers is three-fold:
  - (1) to add area competence to a given professional specialty such as an understanding of Burma by a professionally trained area economist.

DOC NO: 23 NO CHANGE  
IN CLASS: 4000 CLASS: 4000 CHANGED TO: TS SC RET. JUSTIFICATION: TYPE DOC. 02  
NEXT REV. DATE: 12/31/2000 REV. BY: 12/31/2000  
NO. PGS: 1 CREATION DATE: 12/31/2000 AUTH: E: 733  
KEY CLASS: 4000 REV COORD: 4000

(2) to provide specialized governmental personnel with an opportunity to acquire area competence in addition to their particular professional field.

(3) to accelerate the training in all fields for personnel moving out to foreign areas.

b. It was revealed that the universities were better prepared to deal with problems 1 and 2 above than with problem 3. It was pointed out that existing facilities for area training had been supported in the past by relatively short-range grants in aid by the foundations and did not constitute a charge against the normal operating costs of universities. ~~but that~~ <sup>1</sup> These grants in aid were now rapidly expiring to the extent that the area study programs were threatened. ~~and~~ Unless positive action by the government were taken soon, those area programs presently in existence would no longer be available.

c. The area study programs on the whole are small scale operations now. If the <sup>legislament</sup> ~~request~~, as stated in the proposal, for 1,000 area specialists, <sup>is increased</sup> ~~is increased~~, the universities could expect to make only a meager beginning in view of the lack of basic teaching materials and adequately trained staff. It is possible to assemble such staffs with proper support.

d. None of the area study programs in any of the universities presently offering them are complete. The problem therefore requires a careful statement of governmental needs as measured against the country's resources. The country's resources are so small that unilateral action by any one agency with respect to recruitment of

very limited staff can seriously impair the interests of the government as a whole. Therefore, coordination of interests within the government is determined an essential element of this problem and should include an inventory of strategic requirements and university resources. It was emphasized that the foundations can no longer ~~function~~ <sup>function</sup> for such programs and this is the critical time for the government to move in.

e. The need for speed in resolving this problem was pointed up in view of the reserve status of staff and the decrease in enrollment of students for such programs.

3. Comments of the Governmental Agencies represented are summarized below:

a. NSRB wants the program considered as a manpower problem in an overall sense and not on a piece-meal basis. It wants government requirements carefully spelled out and coordinated. It further wants to deal with this in terms of other <sup>other</sup> problems such as those sponsored by ~~NSA~~ <sup>AEC</sup> for university training and deferment with respect to the physical and natural sciences. The Senate has made a proposal to set up a board to determine deferment requirements. It is presently thinking in terms of 75,000 supportable deferments. This is not a firm figure but in NSRB's opinion all problems, including this one, should be sifted through such a board in order to resolve the deferment question.

<sup>State</sup>  
b. State observed that resources of universities should be protected. It is essential that State have constant flow of area specialists on a long range basis. State has two main requirements:

to support the SSRC proposal to replenish its staff; and further, to develop programs in universities which will provide additional training for governmental personnel already on duty. It supports the view that coordination of governmental requirements is essential; that multilateral action of governmental agencies concerned is also essential; and that working groups from the government must be provided to deal with the universities in the resolution of problems relating to selection of students and schools, curricula, and allocation of end product.

**D**efense  
c. Defense submitted a prepared statement to the effect that it would not oppose the program if the other interested governmental departments and agencies supported it provided that Defense would not be called upon for funds, but would require an equitable share of the students available from such a program.

d. Army would benefit if the program could be carried out. 80 personnel are presently detailed to various universities after their military training has been completed. Area training is overlaid in a four year program, 1 year of which includes intensive language training, 1 year in an area program in the universities in the US, and 2 years in the area of specialization on an overseas tour at the end of which time each student is assigned in such a way that the Army can fully exploit its training.

e. ECA ascertained that this program should have been started ten years ago. ECA constantly faces the problem of dealing with both compromises posed by the problem or subject specialization vs. area competence in the conduct of its planning and operations. ECA

raised the question of how total cost of the project could be reduced which was answered by SSRC as follows:

Possibly Fullbright and Smith-Mundt funds might reduce overseas costs, also accelerated programs involving summer sessions may ~~the time interval~~ reduce cost figures. Cost figures in the proposal are purely tentative.

f. CIA supported the proposal in principle, noted that the ~~unintelligible~~ absence of General Hershey's activity tended to make ~~the~~ discussion of the problem academic but that when, as and if conversations on ~~the proposal~~ <sup>had (would)</sup> with confidence that the deferment question had been resolved, CIA would have specific recommendations in detail, particularly that CIA was not interested in supporting any "one-shot" program but would support a long-range solution to this problem.

CIA urged that a gentleman's agreement to cease and desist from recruiting staff personnel of the universities. ~~be ... had announced, the~~

g. Library of Congress supported the proposal, urged special training of governmental personnel already in our grasp who are not susceptible of being drafted and in view of the Library's requirement to support intelligence activities of the government, wants to participate. Dr. Evans offered to provide a holding training operation in his establishment during the security clearances period for personnel recruited for intelligence.

h. Office of Education emphasized the importance of/deferment question to the proposal and offered support in principle and

cooperation and assistance in administration of any proposals which may result from interdepartmental action.

i. Navy suggested that the European Plan of languages and area study by governmental personnel in spare time with a  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  salary increase as inducement should be explored as a partial solution to the problem; advanced the notion that the use of missionary schools presented problems in that the missionaries normally deal only with those foreign nationals who become converts to Christianity and who therefore are not representative of the foreign groups of which they have been a part; urges that the governmental problem be constructed on a broader base than that possible from the foreign missionaries viewpoint.

4. Conclusions:

a. That the Department of State set up a working group to; firm up governmental requirements, and examine into the question of whether or not additional legislation is necessary in order to carry out a proposal similar to that of SSRC, and <sup>determine</sup> the degree to which the present proposal required modifications to meet coordinated governmental requirements. The first meeting of this group to be held at 1400 hours on 22 March 1951.

b. That the Bureau of the Budget would prepare an Executive Order for the President's signature, designating the Department of State to firm up the subject proposal as modified by the interdepartmental

staff group and which would include in addition the better utilization of governmental personnel already available, the need for further legislation to support these types of training activities and a directive upon governmental agencies to reduce recruitment activities of university staff personnel which may prejudice area study programs. Copies of this letter are to be circulated to the governmental agencies concerned prior to transmittal to the President for signature.

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*Director of Training*